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"EXPRESS MAIL" Mailing Label No. EV108874824US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Klaus Bruchmann)	<u>PATENT APPLICATION</u>
)	Attorney Docket: BRU6144P0050US
Serial No.:	10/031,831)	
)	
International)	Group Art Unit:
Filing Date:	August 2, 2000)	Not Yet Designated
)	
For:	MULTIPOLAR CIRCUIT-)	Confirmation No. 5767
	PROTECTION ASSEMBLY FOR)	
	A COLLECTOR RAIL SYSTEM)	
	(As Amended By The Enclosed)	
	Preliminary Amendment))	
)	
Examiner:	Not Yet Designated)	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, the art identified on the attached form PTO-1449 and other matters discussed below may be helpful to the Patent Office in its examination of the application identified above.

A copy of each of the identified patent documents is enclosed herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

The documents disclosed in the accompanying Form PTO-1449 were cited in the corresponding International Search Report for PCT/EP00/07464.

The following comments are directed to the non-English language documents listed on the accompanying form PTO-1449.

A fused switch unit is known from G 88 02 457.1 U1, which comprises a manually operable load-break switch and a low-voltage (inaudible) capacity fuse-disconnector in a common insulating housing. Although this document discloses a fused switch unit which is comparable to a fused switch unit for a multipole fused switch arrangement as claimed in the preamble of claim 1, that is to say it discloses a similar element part, there is no information whatsoever, however, relating to a multipole fused switch arrangement per se, or to the technical problems associated with such a fused switch arrangement.

A fused switch unit is known from DE 197 34 235 A1, which discloses an interlocking slide with an interlocking web for interlocking a fuse holder in an associated chute.

The Patent and Trademark Office Examiner is requested to review the art and determine the extent of the materiality of the disclosures thereof with respect to the patentability of the subject invention. It is expected that the Patent and Trademark Office Examiner will independently conduct a complete search for relevant prior art.

No inference should be drawn and no representation is made or intended: (a) that a search has been made, or if made, was complete; (b) that the art on the attached list presents a comprehensive investigation of the prior art; or (c) that no more pertinent art than that listed is in existence. [See 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g)]

Citation of any art herein is not to be construed as an admission: (a) that the art disclosure is, or is considered to be, necessarily within the invention field of

endeavor, pertinent to the instant invention, or equivalent to the instant invention; (b) that the art disclosure is, or is considered to be, necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant in the instant patent application; (c) that the art disclosure is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b); and/or (d) that the art disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention and application. [See 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g).]

No inference should be drawn that the discussion of any art herein is a discussion of each and every feature disclosed therein.

Also, there is reserved the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosures of any document or other art, including the disclosures of the art cited herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ, CLARK & MORTIMER

By 
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